CANADA and THE UNITED NATIONS *continued*

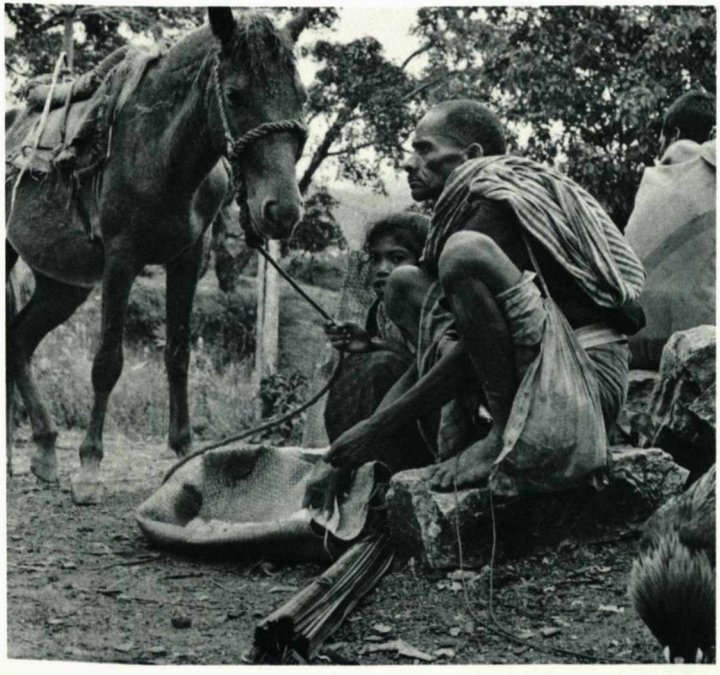
issue to be an internal matter, and severely restricting access to the territory by independent observers. Indonesia has preferred to allow time, its own diplomatic pressure and a war of attrition to dissipate both local resistance and international concern.

The Indonesian strategy has met with some success; the 1982 resolution passed by only four votes. Canada had abstained in voting on the initial U.N. resolutions, but has joined Indonesia in opposing the resolutions since 1980. Canada has also given considerable diplomatic support to Indonesia's efforts to have the issue of East Timor removed from all U.N. agenda, including the Human Rights Commission.

The Canadian government asks us to accept this destruction of a people as a regrettable but necessary "fait accompli".

It is expected that the issue of East Timor will again come before the U.N. during the Fall of 1988. Unless international opinion can influence the way nations vote at that time, it is likely that the resolution will be defeated. Should this occur, it is feared that the Indonesian military will be free to pursue, without restraint, the final elimination of resistance to its occupation in East Timor and the suffering of the East Timorese people will become but a vague footnote in history.

An important principle, the right to self-determination of small nations in the face of overwhemingly powerful neighbours, will have been dealt a severe blow.



What You Can Do

Write to: The Rt. Honourable Joe Clark
Minister of External Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa K1A 0A6

(no postage required)

and demand that Canada change its vote in the U.N. to one of support for the right of the people of East Timor to a free and fair act of self-determination.

Talk to your M.P., write to your local newspaper, inform your friends, church and community groups about this issue.

This pamphlet was produced by the East Timor Alert Network with the assistance of the Canada-Asia Working Group, the Inter-agency Committee on Pacific-Asia, The United Church of Canada and Canadian Catholic Development and Peace.

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or

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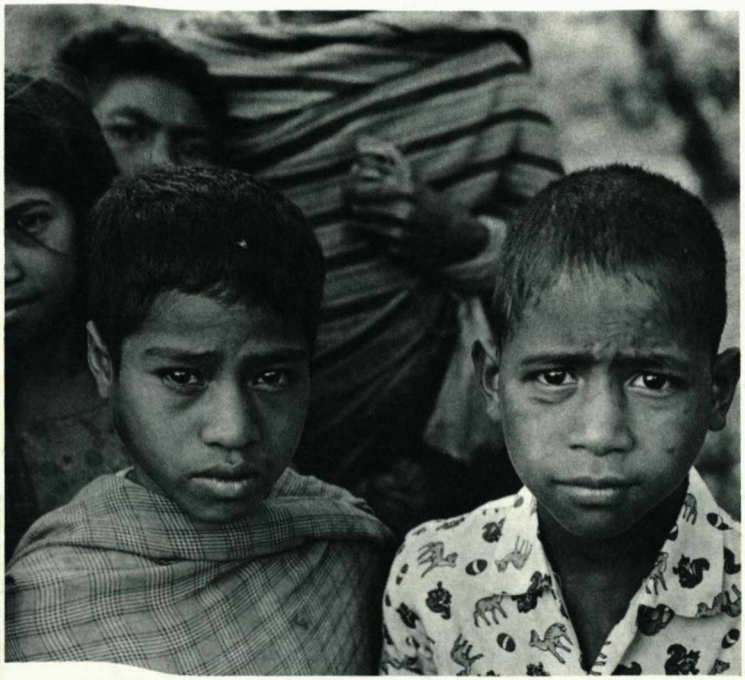

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EAST TIMOR

Overview

The Timorese are a people with a rich and diverse cultural heritage. Their society is characterized by attitudes of mutual tolerance, sharing, self-reliance, an extended kinship system and a centuries old equilibrium with the natural ecosystems of the area.

For 400 years the Dutch and the Portugese fought over the control of East Timor.

In 1975, following the departure of the Portugese colonial authorities, Indonesia invaded East Timor. As a result of the military attack and ensuing ravages of occupation, one third of the entire East Timorese population of about 700,000 was killed. East Timor continues to be occupied by the Indonesian military and an insurgency continues to be waged.

Western countries, including Canada, have consistently ignored Indonesia's disregard for international law and human rights, placing their trade and political interests in Indonesia above the lives and rights of the Timorese people.

Citizen and church groups around the world have persisted in a call for justice for the East Timorese. This is an appeal to Canadians to take part in this movement by demanding that Canada honour its commitment to international human rights and end its collaboration in the destruction of the Timorese people.

Invasion and Resistance

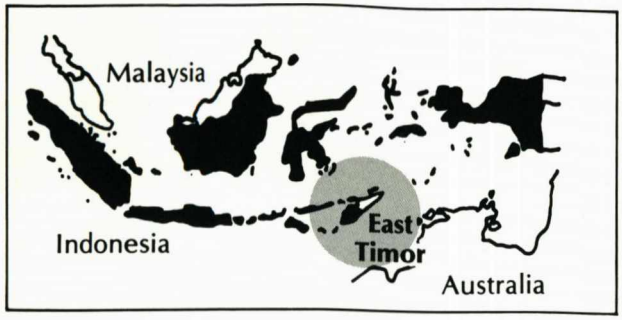
East Timor declared its independence only nine days before the Indonesian invasion of December 7, 1975. Within three months, by Indonesia's own admission, 60,000 civilians had been killed. Indonesia annexed East Timor in a rubber stamp "People's Assembly" in June of 1976.

In early 1977, Indonesia began a systematic strafing and bombing of the Timorese countryside. Napalm and white phosphorus were used. Tens of thousands perished and the survivors relocated into "strategic hamlets".

In spite of this, Timorese resistance to the occupation continues. FRETILIN carries out armed resistance and controls large parts of the territory.

Indonesia has launched several large-scale offensives aimed at eliminating FRETILIN: Operation "Security" in 1981, when East Timorese villagers were used as a "human fence", Operation "Clean Sweep" in 1983-84, causing yet more deaths and systematic human rights abuses, and Operation "Eradicate" in 1986-87.

East Timor Today



East Timor is administered as a war zone under a special Indonesian military command consisting of some 14,000 troops.

The majority of Timorese have been forced to live in "strategic hamlets" in which fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly, association and movement do not exist. Forced labour, deprivation of food and severe security restrictions take a high toll on the Timorese living in these camps. The beating, torture and execution of villagers suspected of supporting FRETILIN continues.

Even though East Timor has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world and has recently suffered a huge population loss, Indonesia is forcing a sterilization and birth control program upon Timorese women of child-bearing age.

Amnesty International estimates that at least 200,000 Timorese have died as a result of the Indonesian invasion and occupation — a full one-third of the Timorese people.

Indonesia keeps East Timor in the strictest isolation possible. Independent observers, journalists and international humanitarian and human rights organizations have consistently been denied access to East Timor since 1975.

Surveillance of towns and strategic hamlets makes the transmission of information difficult and dangerous. People are not allowed to talk in groups, listen to foreign broadcasts or make telephone calls outside of East Timor.

Refugees who leave are threatened with reprisals against relatives remaining in East Timor. Foreign delegations are carefully selected, accompanied and restricted in their movements. "Unauthorized" Timorese who speak with foreigners are interrogated, beaten and sometimes killed.

The International Red Cross was denied access to East Timor for 4 years. It has never been allowed into areas of conflict and has only very limited access to the Timorese people.

Independent aid organizations and human rights groups such as Amnesty International, Asia Watch, The International Council of Voluntary Agencies in Geneva, the Catholic Institute of International Relations, and a Joint Parliamentary Group from the British and Australian Parliaments have all been denied entry into East Timor.

Indonesian paratroopers.

East Timorese village before the Indonesian invasion.

Canadian Aid and Trade with Indonesia

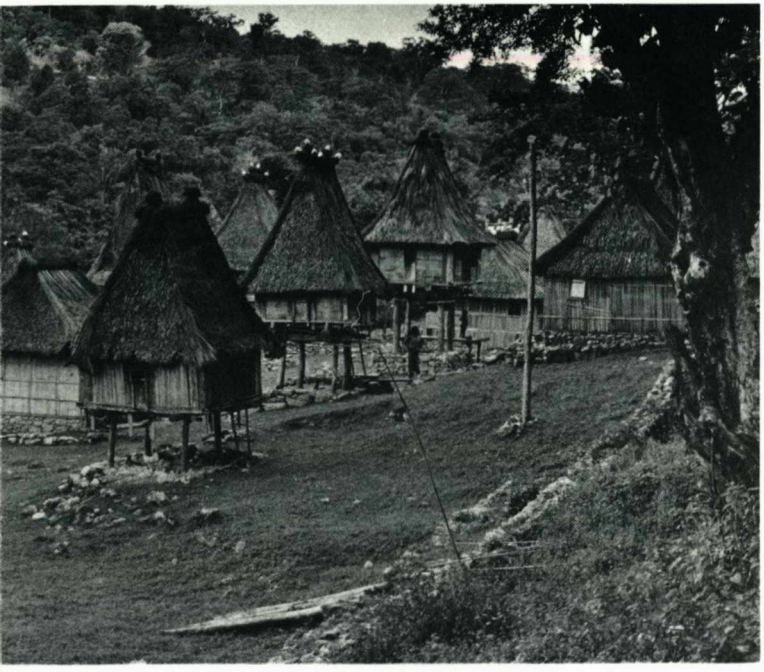
Indonesia is important to Canada's international trade strategy and its focus on the Pacific Rim. Canada became a major investor in Indonesia in the late 1960's with the construction of INCO's billion dollar mining and smelting complex in Sulawesi.

Abundant and cheap natural resources, tax holidays and a state-controlled labour force have attracted over 300 Canadian companies to Indonesia, with investments and contracts ranging from oil exploration to manufacturing to technical and professional services.

Canada's military sales to Indonesia since 1975 include ammunition, military vehicles, transport planes and Pratt & Whitney engines for Bell helicopters being assembled in Indonesia. In the fall of 1984, External Affairs hosted an arms bazaar in Jakarta to promote the wares of 10 major Canadian weapons manufacturers.

Six months after the invasion of East Timor, President Suharto visited Ottawa and received a $200 million mixed aid package. CIDA plans to disperse $350 million in aid to Indonesia over the next five years, including the creation of an Indonesian information centre at the University of British Columbia.

In January, 1987, the *London Economist* placed Indonesia only three points behind South Africa in the category of "high risk" countries for investment because of corruption, illegitimacy of government and its wars in East Timor and West Papua.



The issues raised by East Timor — gross and systematic human rights violations and self-determination — are important for Canadians and imply a moral obligation. Yet Canada's foreign and human rights policies, with respect to Indonesia, have become increasingly compromised by our serious economic interests and burgeoning ambitions there.

Since the invasion of East Timor, Canada has emerged as one of the three largest foreign investors in the country and Indonesia is currently the only Southeast Asian country with which Canada enjoys a favourable balance of trade.

Canada and The United Nations

Indonesia's occupation of East Timor violates the two most basic tenets of the United Nations, namely, respect for territorial boundaries and the universal right of self-determination.

At the time of the Indonesian invasion, the United Nations overwhelmingly passed resolution General Assembly 3485 *XXX* calling for the withdrawal of Indonesia's armed forces and affirming the right to self-determination for the people of East Timor. It also called for U.N. supervised negotiations between Indonesia and the East Timorese resistance represented by FRETILIN.

These appeals have since been reiterated seven times by equally strong resolutions, most recently in 1982 (General Assembly 37/30, which remains currently in effect).

Indonesia, for its part, has essentially ignored world opinion by formally annexing East Timor, declaring the

continued

Timorese youth slain by Indonesian troops.